

**Claims:**

1. Muffler with variable damping characteristics for motor vehicles with internal combustion engine, comprising
  - a housing (20),
  - at least one gas pipe (1) terminating in the housing (20),
  - at least one valve whose closure element (3) closes the end (2) of the pipe (1) in rest position with the aid of a spring (8), characterized by the features:
    - that the valve executes a lifting motion,
    - that the closure element is as disk (3),
    - that the disk (3) is seated on a guide rod (4),
    - that the guide rod (4) is guided in a guide sleeve (5),
    - that the spring (8) is positioned in a valve housing (10),
    - that the valve housing (10) is
      - gastight
      - and connected in gastight manner to the muffler housing (20).
2. Muffler according to claim 1, characterized by the feature
  - that a spring guide disk (7) is mounted at the spring end of the guide rod (4).
3. Muffler according to claim 1 or 2, characterized by the feature
  - that a ring (6) of wire knit is placed on the spring end of the guide rod (4).
4. Muffler according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized by the features
  - that the end (2) of the tube (1) is conical,
  - that the plate (3) is likewise conical.
5. Muffler according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterized by the feature
  - that the spring (8) is conical.